



# State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MARK A. COOPER  
DIRECTOR

### PRESS RELEASE

**Allison Hadley**  
(225)718-1815  
[allison.hadley@la.gov](mailto:allison.hadley@la.gov)

#### GOVERNOR JINDAL PROCLAIMS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

BATON ROUGE (May 23, 2010) – Governor Bobby Jindal has proclaimed May 22-28, 2011 Hurricane Preparedness Week. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is encouraging every Louisiana citizen to begin preparing for the 2011 hurricane season.

"GOHSEP urges everyone to get a game plan and be ready before the start of hurricane season. Currently, the state is heavily engaged in preparing for and responding to the Mississippi River flooding event, but we are also busy preparing for Louisiana's biggest natural threat – hurricanes," said GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper. "We encourage everyone to have a plan for themselves, their families and their pets."

It is important for Louisiana residents to know the risk for the area in which they live. Hurricanes prone areas are not just along the gulf coast, inland areas are just as vulnerable to effects from hurricanes. Hurricane hazards can come in many forms, including storm surge, high winds, tornados, and flooding. By knowing your vulnerability and having a plan in place, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predict the Atlantic basin is expected to see an above-normal hurricane season this year. Hurricane season begins on June 1<sup>st</sup> and last until November 30<sup>th</sup>. During this six month season predictions are that there will be anywhere from 12 to 18 named storms in 2011.

"We never know when we will be affected by another hurricane, but what we do know is that being prepared can make all the difference. By planning and preparation we can help protect

ourselves against hurricane and other disasters. Louisiana also deals with many other hazards, as we have seen with the Deepwater Horizon event and now as we are faced with the Mississippi flooding event. By creating a plan we can be ready to handle both natural and man-made disasters,” said Cooper.

GOHSEP’s Get a Game Plan webpage ([www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org)), is a place wherein families, businesses and even kids can visit to learn how to be prepared. This webpage has valuable information and important numbers that will help to develop a plan that works for you. Always remember to stay informed and listen to warnings or alerts from your local parish officials.

The 2011 Hurricane Evacuation Guides are available through American Red Cross (ARC) chapters throughout the State of Louisiana.

Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR) provides an annual state sales tax holiday for sales of hurricane-preparedness items or supplies. The 2011 Louisiana Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is scheduled for Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Please visit LDR’s webpage at [www.revenue.louisiana.gov/hurricaneprep](http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/hurricaneprep) for a list of items that are allowed for tax-free purchases.

For more information on how you can get prepared, go to [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org). For more information related to the Mississippi Flooding, visit <http://www.emergency.louisiana.gov>. Connect with us on [www.facebook.com/GOHSEP](http://www.facebook.com/GOHSEP) and on Twitter as @GOHSEP. View photos from the state's response efforts at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lagohsep>.

###